Besides using the Internet for providing an online track and trace facility, a web-based product called 'e-post' has been introduced. Customers can send 'e-post' messages like e-mail through their computers, which will be printed in 'e-post' centres in post offices near the addressees, and would be delivered like a letter. Customers can also bring their messages to post offices in written text, which would be scanned and sent like an e-mail further to be either delivered to an e-mail address, or to be printed in e-post centres near the addressees for being printed and delivered.

(b) As a result of the efforts of the Department of Posts, the revenue from business products has gone up to Rs. 747.25 crores last year from Rs. 563.64 crores in the previous year. Speed Post and Business Post, the two mail-related products, have shown a specially rapid growth. Multi-pronged action for continuous growth and improvements in tune with requirements of different customer segments, emerging economic scenario and technology development has been taken. It is a continuous process which is being closely monitored at all levels.

Violation of agreement by private operators

100. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL and BSNL filed complaint in the recent past against certain private telecom operators for passing off incoming international calls from the USA as domestic traffic to evade access charges which would been payable to MTNL/BSNL in terms of licence and interconnect agreement;

(b) the details of the complaints and compensation claimed by MTNL and BSNL from the private operators;

(c) whether following investigations, DoT has confirmed the veracity of the complaints and endorsed the volume of compensation claimed by MTNL/BSNL;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) the action contemplated, if any, against private operators convicted for violation of agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. Reliance Infocomm. Limited was found routing incoming international calls with domestic Calling Line Identification (CLI) in trunk groups meant for domestic calls in violation of the Interconnect Agreement with BSNL and MTNL. For this violation, BSNL has asked M/s. Reliance Infocomm. Limited on 29th October, 2004 to pay Rs. 182 crores. However, M/s. Reliance Infocomm. Limited appealed against this before the Hon'ble High Court and the matter is pending. While the total dues pending against M/s. Reliance Infocomm. Limited from BSNL as on 5.11.2004 was Rs. 257 crores, they have only paid approximately Rs. 100 crores so far. MTNL has made a claim of Rs. 341.27 crores against M/s. Reliance Infocomm. Limited and M/s. Reliance Infocomm. Limited has paid Rs. 66.76 crores to MTNL.

(c) and (d) The volume of compensation claimed by MTNL and BSNL has to be as per their interconnect agreement with M/s. Reliance Infocomm. Matter is at present subjudice.

(e) DoT has issued a notice imposing penalty of Rs. 150 crores for violation of licence agreements to M/s. Reliance Infocomm. on 24.11.2004. BSNL & MTNL are taking action as per Interconnect Agreement between them and M/s. Reliance Infocomm. for recovery of the loss.

Frauds committed in money order handling

101. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of money orders and amount of money transmitted by the Postal Department through money order during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is inordinate delay in money order delivery, particularly in far-flung areas;

(c) if so, the measures contemplated to eradicate incidents of delayed delivery of M.O.;

(d) whether Government have received reports of frauds being committed in the M.O. handling; and